

THEY MANAGE THINGS BETTER IN FRANCE.

In France a girl who remains single up to the age of twenty-five may be looked upon almost as an anomaly; even the least attractive regarding their establishment in life not merely as a probable eventuality, but as a matter of course. When scarcely in her teens her future prospects have been already discussed, and her "expectancies" accurately calculated by that mysterious but influential *Valeureux*, the family council; suggestions from its different members as to the corresponding advantages who is entitled to demand have been carefully listened to and considered, and the names of most of their friends and acquaintances as may ultimately supply the requisite soul-law duly registered. When the time for action arrives, no go is left open on all sides, not only by the mother and other female relatives, but also by whatever sympathizing "cousines"—and they are legion—they can contrive to bring into their behalf; and thanks to their united efforts the young lady who consents to this arbitrary disposal of her person is regarded as a foreseen consolation. She herself in an incredibly short space of time becomes a compass star, whom she has perhaps met twice in her life before, and conspicuously accepting as her legitimate due the traditional bouquet which during the dreary interval between the signature of the contract and the marriage ceremony it is his duty privilege to offer her. When once the knot is tied all the newly married couple are fairly dispatched on their wedding tour, the professional match-maker's occupation is for the nonce at an end, and she calmly washes her hands as the result of the "arrangement." Yet, strange though it may seem, such marriages usually turn out remarkably well; and even in cases where a complete accordance of tastes and dispositions is wanting, both parties are, as a rule, disposed to make the best of an indifferent bargain, and, however cordially they may disagree at home, still occasionally care that the world knows nothing about it. —*All the Year Round.*

THE TELEPHONE IN EUROPE.

The mercantile and banking community were prompt to see some of the advantages it would afford them, and I recorded fifty thousand subscribers on exchange in Alexandria alone, before I had even succeeded to stretch a wire. The earlier exhibitions presented many comic features, as may be imagined, taking into account the composition of the audience, native and exotic. Suspicious of fraud, on the part of the electrician, were at first universal, and found expression on one occasion in a very amusing way. At an exhibition at the house of the Italian Consul-General, the Chevalier de Martino, (who kindly allowed the instrument to be put up in connection with a friend's) an Egyptian official who had been educated in Europe, and who had loudly declared he would unravel the imposture, while conversation through the telephone was going on, stopped down, and with a cunning leer on his face, lifted the cloth of the table on which the instrument stood, to exhibit the accomplices he supposed was concealed beneath. His change of countenance, when he found no one there, and was greeted with a roar of laughter at his discomfiture, was as comical as any theatrical exhibition. Needless to say that Pasha did not appear at subsequent seances. The Chief of Police at Alexandria also at first declined to test the master for himself, on the ground that we might be able to talk the Frank language through our "box," but "how could it speak Arabic?" His incredulity on that point gave way to wild astonishment on his part and that of his officers, when four of them stationed at different parts of the city, conversed with each other in their native tongue.—*Edwin de Leon, in Fraser's Magazine.*

STAGE DEVIL.

For a certain play one night some stage devils were wanted. Stage devils must have black blinder and there were no black tights. What was to be done? Joseph Bondi set to work and painted the legs of the boys who were to represent the Savanti imp. The effect was very good, but next day when Mme. Moujikoff went to the theatre she found the boys crying. She asked them what was the matter. They "earnestly explained" that their legs were very black, and that M. Bondi would not give them the money to get a bath. One boy said his mother would not let him have a bath, so he was so black. Mme. Moujikoff gave them a little money that she had with her, and they went away to get themselves washed.—*Temple Bar.*

A FRIENDLY BANDY, 1828.

He had a suit of Turkish program dressed with Tafta, out with long sleeves, or carboulois, after the French fashion, and belted with bugle lace. His coat was also of Turkish program, cut upon back Tafta. Through the openings of his doublet appeared his shirt of the purest silk, and wrought with onions needle-work; the points at his waist and knees all edged with a silver edging; his garters, roses, and hand, made to his coat, "i.e.", matching them; and he wore a beaver-hat, and a pair of silk stockings.—*Holy Grail.*



In an adjoining tower is a room where there are preserved a number of very various instruments of torture used in Nuremberg hundreds of years ago. Before the days of jail and penitentiaries. There are thumb-screws of the most approved patterns and helmets for gimping men and women. A singularly cheerful piece of furniture is a large, heavy wheel, on one side of which stands out a large, sharp piece of iron. In the glorious days of old an offender who had to be punished was stripped naked and firmly bound to a plank, face downward. The piece of iron on the wheel was heated hot, and the wheel was rolled up and down and across the victim's back till justice was satisfied or the victim was dead.

Inasmuch as the spike was long enough to go half way through the man's body, and was always heated red-hot, the victim generally died, and justice was entirely satisfied. It was not as expeditious as the guillotine.

THE INDEPENDENT.

THE INDEPENDENT is not denominational. Its creed and field are broader than any sect. As a Christian journal, its aim is to strengthen and extend Evangelical religion and to defend it against the attacks of Materialism, Agnosticism and Infidelity. It is free to approve or criticize any of the denominations whatever it believes is deserved to advance or hinder the progress of the Gospel of Christ.

In civil and political affairs *The Independent* will contend for sound ideas and principles. It is a weekly publication for thirty-five years and has acquired a world-wide reputation as the best religious and literary newspaper.

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Wife-beaters in those times were severely punished. They were flogged with clashing helmets, from which heavy weights were suspended. They were given a conspicuous place in the public square appropriately labeled, and placed in stocks with heavy weights attached to their arms and feet, and there they sat the live-long day, subjected to the jeers and ridicule of the town.

Scolding wives were put in cages with irons in their mouths and exposed in the public square. You are shown all kinds of beheading blocks and gallows upon which noted villains had gone to their reward, while the walls are covered from top to bottom with pictures of the practical operations of the various instruments that filled the room.

All this preparatory to the steel mallet, which is kept in a room above, precisely as she was in the days of her usefulness. You are shown what appears at first sight to be a stone statue of a woman clammy hewn out wood. The guide noiselessly opened it, one door swinging to the right and the other to the left. The statue was hollow and just the size of the average man. Inside were straps by which the offender was bound so that he could not move a muscle. All the doors were lined with long sharp steel spikes, strong and thick. When the victim was firmly secured, the door on the left was slowly but firmly shut, and the long spikes went into his body, two being so arranged as to pierce his eyes. Then the door on the left was closed in a similar manner, and he would receive another complement of spikes, the closing of the doors being done very slowly, that the torture of the man in the embrace of the maiden might be prolonged as long as possible. The last spike pierced his heart. After remaining shut up for a while, the straps were unloosened from the outside, a spring was touched, and the man fell fifteen feet into a cleverly-constructed machine that ground him up as fine mincemeat, and dropped him into the river below, making food for fishes.

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